

SHREVEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

FlashPoint

Volume 1 Number 2

To Protect and Preserve Life, Property and the Environment

Summer 2001

Summer Bond Election Crucial to Fire Department's Future

Department asks for new maintenance facility in July 21st election

The upcoming bond election holds a great deal of promise for the future of the City of Shreveport and the emergency readiness of its Fire Department. Stacked with \$50 million in badly needed infrastructure projects, the bond also carries crucial funding to ensure that the Class One Fire Department maintain its efficient and effective operation.

Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran initially presented the Mayor's Office with more than \$17 million in Department needs. With only \$70 million in bond money allocated for this year, the Mayor appointed a Citizen's Committee to review and prioritize each proposal from the respective city departments. The Citizen's Committee members, working with representatives from each department, were able to reduce the original dollar amounts requested to a manageable number.

With the pressing needs of Streets and Drainage, it was affirmed that the bulk of the money, some \$50 million, would go to the Department of Operational Services. With direction from Chief Cochran, Fire Department Bond Proposal Committee members Henry Simons, Willis Carter, Brian Crawford, and Dean Brady worked with Citizen's Sub-Committee Chairman Leon Wheeler, and members John Samuels, Ken Krefft, and Witt Carruthers to prioritize and develop a retooled \$8 million Fire Department package. In the final draft, the Department's top priority, \$2 million for a new maintenance facility, was still intact. Additionally, the proposal carries \$850 thousand for new fire engines; \$1.3 million for the relocation of station 13 from North Market to the Pines and 70th Street area; \$1.3 million for the addition of station 22 in the Southern Trace/Overton Brooks area; \$1 million for station renovations; and \$1.5 million in additional funding for Central Fire Station relocation. **K** Editor- Remember to cast your vote yes July 21

inside...

Fire Chief's Column

Air Pack Trial

Dive Team New Look

Annual Report

2001 Open House

\$280,000 Haz Mat

Grant

Front Line Headlines

On Scene Pictures

Firefighter Editorial

FlashPoint is the official newsletter of the
Shreveport Louisiana Fire Department



Shreveport Fire Chiefs - Past and Present

Three former Shreveport fire chiefs recently met with current Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran.

Left to right- Dale Martin (91-93), Kelvin Cochran (99-present), Jerl "Bo" Roberts (93-99), Dallas W. Greene

Chief's Column

The Shreveport Fire Department is a growing and thriving organization. Our goals for 2001 are on track. Our strategic plans for the future are being accomplished before expected time frames. The effective leadership of our administrative chief officers, a dedicated work force, the teamwork and cooperation of Local 514 and the ever increasing support of Mayor Keith Hightower are the driving forces behind our success.

Fire Chief



On May 16, the 46th Basic Training Class began with 32 new recruits. They are scheduled to graduate in mid-September. The class should bring our fire line staffing to a level we have not experienced in nearly five years, adding to the strength of our class one rating.

On May 14, we began the second of three consecutive paramedic classes.

The current class of 15 is scheduled to end in February 2002. I am confident that with the current progress of this class, all students will be successful. These additional paramedics will bring us within 15, of the number of paramedics needed to reach our fire line staffing goal of 165. We are still pursuing our goal of establishing all medic unit stations as Task Force stations.

The third round of chairs for the fire stations should be arriving soon. We are very close to ordering the fourth and final round, which should provide every station with new day room chairs. Station renovation projects have been slow in developing. Work will begin soon on fire stations with the most immediate needs. Washer, dryers, and hands-free sinks are currently being installed. This project will be completed before August. Twelve new treadmills have been purchased and assigned to stations. Five more are needed to complete the goal of having quality exercise equipment at all stations. It is possible that they might have them by the end of the year.

Installation of exhaust removal systems should begin during the last quarter of this year.

There are several issues that yet exist where pay and benefits are concerned. We have made continuous and great accomplishments under Mayor Hightower's administration. We are still on track for a 2% pay increase in July. The \$35 deficit had finally been addressed and our fire communications officers are being paid as other FCOIs in our state. The mayor has committed to establishing parity between fire and police benefits addressing clothing and cleaning allowance, education pay, and FLSA pay. He is also evaluating the feasibility for a tax or a millage addressing fire and police salaries. Please let the mayor know how much we appreciate his efforts and support.

To whom much is given, much is required. We must continue to grow and change to meet the needs of our citizens and the needs of our personnel. Continuous growth requires continuous change. Leaders who want positive change without mistakes and accountability are like asking for rain without thunder and lightning.

• see Chief, pg. 3

SCBA Evaluation in Progress

• Department to choose between MSA and SCOTT

By Sandy Davis, Chief of Safety

The Shreveport Fire Department recently began an in-house evaluation of self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) on June 15 of this year. The evaluation is to determine which manufacturer will be used for the department's future SCBA purchases. The two companies chosen for evaluation were industry leaders, SCOTT and MSA.

Because of high call volumes, Fire Stations 1, 8, 9, and 14 were selected for the study. Training on each of the air units was conducted by the respective crews to whom they were issued. The evaluation period is slated to last for a total of 90 days, ending September 15, 2001.

At the beginning of the evaluation, Stations 8 and 9 were issued SCOTT equipment and Stations 1 and 14 the MSA equivalent. After 45 days, on August 1, the stations will exchange the packs and evaluate the other for the remainder of the trial.

The participating stations will be conducting live fire evolutions at the Fire Academy's burn building, as well as holding station schools to allow for a complete and objective evaluation. Each member using the equipment during the program will be required to complete an evaluation sheet on both manufacturers. Additionally, other Department members not participating in the study are encouraged to look at and discuss their thoughts with those members involved in the testing.

For firefighters not participating in the evaluation that find themselves temporarily working at an SCBA evaluation station, the current breathing apparatus used by the Department, MSA, will be maintained in working order and available.

At the end of the evaluation period, a decision will be made as to which manufacturer the Department will use. The new equipment will be phased into service as funding becomes available.

This type of evaluation is the first of what the Department hopes will be many that allow the members to have input into the equipment that is purchased for their safety and survival. K



The Shreveport Fire Department is currently in the process of evaluating new breathing apparatus for their members. The department will choose between MSA

Dive Team Sporting New Patch and Equipment

- Fire Department to receive \$7 thousand in new underwater equipment

Members of the Shreveport Fire Department Water Rescue and Recovery Team are proudly wearing a new team patch and will soon be receiving equipment upgrades. The colorful patch was the brainchild of team member Chuck Justice.

Justice approached Ray Mendenhall, and together they took ideas and a rough sketch to Wynn Hutto, who designed the patch and completed the artwork. After approval of the design by Deputy Chief Chapeland Chief Cochran, Yearwoods Uniforms created the patches.



Dive Team members will also be receiving new equipment soon. Included in the upgrade are dive skins, a thin fabric suit to protect members from the elements during dive operations. The dive skins will enhance the image of the team by having all members in the same designed suit. Buoyancy compensators, a device used by divers to maintain stability in the water, will be upgraded to a more durable, professional public safety level. Secondary regulators will also be upgraded.

The SFD Water Rescue and Recovery Team is the oldest technical Search and Rescue Team in Louisiana. It was organized in 1963 as a dive team by a group who used their own equipment to provide a service to the community. Around 1992 the team reorganized as a water rescue team, and under the authority of then Fire Chief Dale Martin, received four complete sets of dive gear and positive pressure full face masks with an integrated wireless communications system for underwater communication. The team continues to upgrade training and services provided to the community. **k**

• Chief, from pg. 2

It just doesn't work that way. We cannot be passive and get where we are trying to grow. Complacency will lead to confusion, complaining and comfort zones that preserve the status quo.

We must treat our personnel like we want them to treat our customers. Every employee is a VIP. Every customer will see a firefighter again. How you treat them while you are there will determine whether that will be a pleasant experience or a dreadful one. Remember: Serving our citizens must continue to have a precedence over self-interest. Serving one another must be our bond and commitment. Always do more than people expect us to do. Always be more professional than they expect us to be. **k**

SFD Ranks 75th Nationally: 2000 Annual Report Now Available

- Incidents up almost 13% from 99' totals

According to the June issue of *Firehouse Magazine*®, the Shreveport Fire Department ranks 75th nationally in incident responses for the year 2000, placing ahead of such notable cities as Little Rock, Arkansas, Montgomery, Alabama, Arlington, Texas, and Salt Lake City, Utah. Additionally, the Fire Departments Annual Report for the year 2000 is now available and should be showing up at stations and divisions any day. Some of the items covered in the report are as follows:

Operations - Incidents for fire line operations reached 32,086, which surpassed last years total by 12.7% (29,563). Emergency medical service (EMS) calls accounted for nearly 75% of the incidents and again made up the bulk of the run totals. Firefighters also saw thousands of children while conducting station tours or visiting local schools. They also spent time, when not on emergency calls, conducting fire pre-planning of area buildings, taking blood pressures, visiting local churches, and speaking to civic groups.

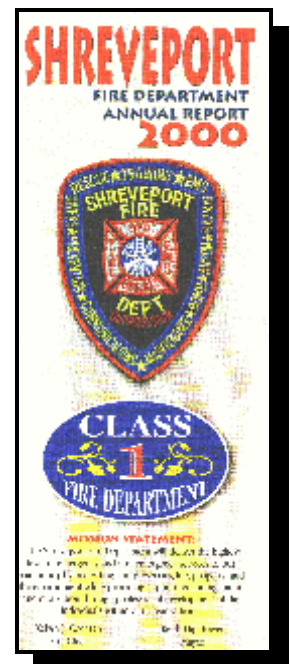
Fire Prevention - In the Fire Prevention Bureau, inspectors conducted 14,449 building inspections and reviewed 556 sets of construction plans. Fire investigations totaled 451, with 17 arrests for the crime of arson sent to the district attorneys desk. Public education programs reached 331,000 citizens and personnel installed 473 smoke detectors in the homes of the elderly and low-income.

Communications - Serving as the primary answering point for all of Caddo Parish, the Shreveport Fire Department's Communications division processed over 250,000 9-1-1 calls last year. Communications officers deployed apparatus and personnel to a total of 38,131 fires/EMS events.

Training - Last year the Fire Training Academy provided more than 142,000 hours of instruction to new fire recruits and veterans alike. In 2000 the Academy staff hosted the 45th Basic Training Class, a paramedic class of 15, basic EMT and paramedic refresher classes, and hazardous material training, just to name a few. A confined space training facility was erected to aid in rescue training.

Maintenance - In 2000, the Maintenance Division maintained all 122 emergency vehicles for the Department. Additionally, the division's certified Emergency Vehicle Technicians service all emergency and non-emergency equipment. Department vehicles drove over 1.1 million miles last year, leading Maintenance to process 1,785 service orders for repairs. The division also retrofitted two John Deere ATVs for use as EMS response vehicles during special service operations.

Emergency Medical Services - EMS provided the overall management for the emergency medical and ambulance service for the city, conducted citywide ambulance inspections, and reviewed patient reports and run response for quality assurance purposes. **k** Information provided through the 2000 SFD Annual Report prepared by Chief David Bryant. For a copy of this years SFD Annual Report call 673-6654



OPEN HOUSE

• Firefighters, free health screens, and good weather draw crowd to 2001 event

Three months before the Shreveport Fire Department was scheduled to hold its 2001 Open House, plans were already being laid out to make this year's June 2-3 event a successful one. With Willis Knighton Health Systems again signed on as a sponsoring partner to provide health screenings, getting people to attend became the priority. With a blanketing advertising effort, that included billboards, newspaper articles and advertisements, radio spots, and TV appearances by Fire Department and Willis Knighton employees on local news programs, including a hilarious Channel 12 Tony Live segment from Station 9, B-shift, it looked like the Department only needed good weather to assure a successful event. And they got it.

"Perfect," said Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran of the weather conditions. This is what we were waiting for. After last year's event met with rain and thunderstorms, the Department hoped and prayed for good weather this year. "No matter how hard or thorough you are in planning an event of this scale, you still find yourself at the mercy of the weather," said Cochran. This year, luck was on their side. On Saturday morning, the once threatening rain clouds that had been hovering over the city for several days parted and gave way to a warm and sunny, almost springlike day.

At Fire Station 9, located at Saint Vincent and 70th Street, crowds began arriving even before the official 9:00 a.m. opening. Hosting all of the major health screenings, including cholesterol/ glucose, body fat, hearing and vision, nutritional counseling, and Shots for Tots, the Cedar Grove station saw large crowds all morning. Although most of the visitors were local, some had heard about the free health screenings and had come from as far away as Arkansas and Texas.

Other stations saw similar results. At Station 3 on East 70th in University Terrace, Captain Harry Malone and Investigator Fred Sanders spent time greeting and talking with each guest as registered nurse Donyea Moore, firefighter Kevin Moore's wife, sat

at one end of a long table checking





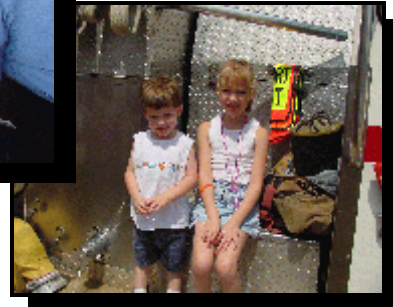
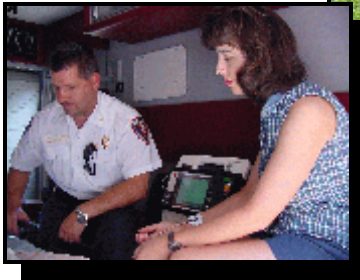
cholesterol and glucose levels. Just as soon as one person left the chair opposite her, another would sit down. Despite being busy, Moore said that she enjoys coming out and helping during the Open House. "It's a great opportunity, away from the hospital setting, to get out and meet people in the community," said Moore.

Captain Scotty Hammond didn't wait for the people of Station 8's Queensborough neighborhood to come to him. Along with his crew, Hammond went door to door and used the engines PA system to tell neighbors about the Open House. "We just let them know what was going on and invited them to the station," said Hammond. Unconventional perhaps but the idea worked. Rita Harvey, who lived on close-by Penick Street, said that she stopped by the Fair Grounds station after hearing all of the commotion. "This is really a nice thing they are doing," said Harvey, who was pleased to find her blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose all in check.

Children seemed to be the big winners of the day. At Station 17 on

Southland Park and Station 10 at Line Avenue and Oneonta, they could be seen crawling on fire trucks, running through the living quarters, and spraying water from fire hoses. One mother got an EKG from Captain/Paramedic Lane Steadman, while her two-year-old son struggled with the proper operation of a booster line. The children, more than any other, seemed to enjoy the unlimited access to the equipment and the stations. Undoubtedly, they have seen their neighborhood fire truck screaming down the road on the way to save someone's burning home or moreover, someone's life. It is easy to understand their captivation and excitement of getting to not only see and touch those huge red and white truck, brandishing the name Shreveport Fire Department, but they also got to look up and talk to a real American hero ... a firefighter.

What better way to spend a weekend. K



FRONT LINE HEADLINES

Fire Dog Leads Investigators to Arrest of Arson Suspect

March 9- The Shreveport Fire Department's best kept secret, "Jack," the accelerant sniffing dog, has helped fire investigators to make an arrest for a March 6 arson fire at 6125 Willard Street.

Jack alerted fire investigators that a petroleum accelerant had been used to start the fire and subsequently found residue of the product in a suspect's vehicle. Based on that evidence, handler and **Fire Investigator Fred Sanders** was able to narrow his investigation to a single suspect: the owner of the car. Following an interview today by Sanders, 26-year-old Brian Johnson of Shreveport was arrested and taken into custody on aggravated arson charges.

Firefighters and New Drug Credited with Saving Shreveport Man

March 28- Introduced less than two months ago by the Shreveport Fire Department as a "breakthrough" and "lifesaving" addition, the new cardiac drug amiodarone appears to be living up to its hype. The Fire Department and drug are being credited with saving the life of 39-year-old Reginald Bayonne, after he suffered a heart attack and cardiac arrest on February 26 of this year.

Bayonne said that he called 911 after he began experiencing chest pain and what he thought was an asthma attack. **Fire Communications Officer Cheri Hardy** took the emergency call and questioned Bayonne about his complaint. Hardy then instructed Bayonne to take two aspirins. Shortly thereafter Bayonne's heart stopped.

Finding a non-breathing and pulseless Bayonne lying on the floor of his home, Fire Department paramedics **Russ Barnes** and **Brian Barker** administered a single dose of amiodarone along with other medications and electrical shocks. With firefighters **Kenneth Hendrickson**, **Roger Schumacker**, and **Doug Smith** providing additional care, Bayonne was loaded into an awaiting medic unit and transported to Christus Schumpert Medical Center.

Bayonne stated that his physician, Cardiologist William Haynie M.D., told him that the quick actions of the Fire Department saved his life. *"I sure do appreciate what they (Fire Department) did for me, they saved my life"* said Bayonne. On March 2, just four days after

his heart had stopped beating, Reginald Bayonne walked out of the hospital under his own power, and back into his life.

Firefighters to Present Stricken Firefighter with \$12 Thousand from Benefit

May 2- Shreveport and Bossier City firefighters who held a benefit rodeo this past weekend for Shreveport firefighter **Michael Waits**, 29, who earlier this year was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's Disease, will present a check to the firefighter for twelve-thousand dollars at a 10:00 a.m. ceremony today at the Shreveport Fire Academy, 6440 Greenwood Road.

Event organizers, firefighters **Mike and Steve Dooley**, **Rodney Roach**, **Rusty Green**, and **Bart Little** are more than pleased with the results of the fund-raiser that exceeded their expectations. "Our goal, which at the time seemed pretty insurmountable, was to raise ten-thousand dollars," said Steve Dooley. This just goes to show you that people really do care.

Child Killed in Morning Car Accident

May 16- A four year old child was killed this morning when the car he was riding in ran a red light and collided with a pickup truck at the intersection of Buncomb Road and Bert Kouns Industrial Loop. When fire crews arrived, they found the pickup resting upside down and a late model Ford Escort crumpled in the southbound lane of Buncomb Road.

Firefighters found the four year old boy, two other children, and their 31 year old mother in the Escort. Firefighters physically tore and pulled back crushed metal of the car's roof and side to free the four year old, who was trapped behind the front passenger seat. Once removed the child was air lifted to LSUHSC by Life Air Rescue. He was pronounced dead a short time later at the hospital. The two other children and mother were treated by department paramedics and

also transported to LSUHSC. The driver of the truck was uninjured.

Firefighters Narrowly Escape Flash-over

March 5 - Firefighters spend an hour this afternoon extinguishing a roaring two-story house fire at 1517 Cambridge Drive, in the University Terrace neighborhood of Southeast Shreveport. When crews arrived from the nearby East 70th Street station, fire was already swirling inside of the home's



Fire in University Terrace seconds after flash-over

carport, engulfing a boat parked there, while smoke was pouring from the upstairs eaves.

Captain Buddy Parker, whose crew was one of the first inside the structure, stated that when they reached the upstairs, there was no visible fire, just intense heat. Minutes later Parker's crew was enveloped in flames as the super heated gasses from the fire ignited in a flash-over that consumed the entire floor. Parker and his crew narrowly escape by reaching the back stairs.

Incident Commander, **Chief Truman Wimberly**, working his last shift after 30 years of service to the department, called for additional companies when the fire broke through the roof of the home. After 60 minutes of intense and exhausting firefighting, the blaze was brought under control at 12:28 p.m.

Fire investigators have determined that the fire originated in the kitchen and was due to a burner on the stove being left on under a pot of food. **K**

Contributions for Front Line Headlines are excerpts from press releases issued by the Public Information Office and can be viewed in their entirety on the department's web page: www.shreveportfire.org



Aspen Apartments Burn- May 22 - A two-alarm fire that investigators believe was started by electrical wiring in the attic, destroyed eight units of the Aspen Apartment, 9730 Baird Road, complex in Southern Hills. Firefighters spent over an hour bringing the fire under control.

Burglar Bars Trap Child in House Fire

April 1 - Burglar bars kept a 9 year old child from escaping this Allendale fire at 1932 Weinstock. Fortunately, the child was rescued by his father before firefighters arrived. It took crews 40 minutes to extinguish the stubborn blaze.



North Market Accident Sends Three to Hospital

May 30 - An afternoon accident at the intersection of North Market and North Common sent three people to the hospital, including one man in serious condition. Here, rescue workers use the Jaws of Life to remove him from his vehicle.

Department Awarded \$280 Thousand Grant from Department of Justice

The Shreveport Fire Department has received a \$280,000 grant from the Department of Justice to purchase personal protective gear, monitoring devices and/or decontamination equipment. The funds were made available through the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Domestic Preparedness Program to the largest 120 cities in the United States as a result of incidents of domestic terrorism in Oklahoma City and New York City.

The SFD Hazardous Materials Committee has met to prioritize equipment needs for the Department. Purchases from the grant funds will include equipment for the Bomb Response Team, much needed new SCBA (*see SCBA Evaluation, pg. 2*), and other speciality equipment not provided for through the operating budget. **K**

2001 Promotions & Retirements

To Asst. Chief

Mack A. McCoy, May 15

To District Chief

Barry Lewis, May 1
George Moncrief, May 15

To Asst. Chief of Communications

Tonnette Lee, April

To Captain

Dale Britt, May 1
Anthony Gueory, May 1
Joseph A. Sanders, May 15
Louis A. Cook, June 1

To Driver

Raleigh Hensley, May 1
Scott Marler, May 1
Brooke Ingram, May 15
Jerald Moore, June 1

Retirements

Asst. Chief of Comm. Patsy Cross, 22 years of service, April
Asst. Chief of Training Dwayne Gates, 17 years of service, April
Dist. Chief Don Blackwell, 31 years of service, May 1
Captain Joe Carroll, 28 years of service, May 1
Asst. Chief Truman Wimberly, 33 years of service, May 15
Captain Bill Duncan, 28 years of service, June 1

New Additions

Communications

Officer I

Julia Small, May
Unique Lacoure, May
Connie Alamond, May

EDITORIAL

by Captain Roland Farnell

Education: Leave no Firefighter Behind

• Degree makes difference

My first experience of college life, like most, was right after finishing high school. Not being able to make the necessary adjustments or accept the responsibility that comes with having to make the grade, I eventually ended up dropping out.

It was only later, after maturing and seeing the need for more education in my professional career as a fire officer, that I once again became interested in the prospect of returning to college. This time I had the necessary focus and desire to see it through. Primarily because, I was able to see where education would play an intricate role in my career development.

While working on my bachelor's degree, several classes required the writing of summary or research papers on a particular topic related to the class. The length of these papers was usually eight to ten pages. It was through these writings that I began to develop a writing style that began to carry over to my ability to communicate in writing regarding fire

department issues. This meant that filling out a simple report, writing a letter to the fire chief, or documenting the performance of a counseling or evaluation on a subordinate, was no longer such an arduous task for me.

After more classes, other skills would begin to materialize. And then still others. You see it is not the taking of one class that changes you overnight into a better manager. It is the culmination of a plan of education, along with career experience, that develops these necessary attributes. That plan is called a degree.

As education has become a major issue that even became evident in the recent presidential election, we too should embrace it. As President Bush launches his ambitious education plan with the help of U.S. Education Secretary Dr. Ron Paige, formerly of the Houston school district, entitled "No Child Left Behind," the fire department should adopt a "No Firefighter Left Behind" policy. This means providing educational opportunities for all its personnel, at all levels, and more importantly having an education plan in place, which includes providing career counseling. This counseling will give firefighters a direction, show them how to start, or in my case, how to pick up and finish ... a college degree. **K** *Captain Farnell is a 23 year Department veteran and house captain at Station 2 on A shift*



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